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**WIFA Awards Drinking Water and
Wastewater Technical Assistance Grants**

PHOENIX (June 18, 2003) The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) Board of Directors approved technical assistance grants totaling \$549,000 to 28 Arizona communities statewide. Recipients of the WIFA awards are listed in the attachment.

Technical Assistance (TA) grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$35,000 are awarded annually by WIFA to eligible wastewater and drinking water systems to foster development of infrastructure construction projects.

Awards are provided principally for pre-design projects. Planning, feasibility studies, engineering and special district formation are common types of assistance requested. Communities or systems that demonstrate the greatest water quality and/or financial needs receive the WIFA technical assistance.

Each grant recipient must provide a minimum required local match to receive the WIFA technical assistance. Local match may be in-kind services, cash or other sources of funds, including WIFA loans.

“The Technical Assistance grants are a tremendous resource for Arizona communities with limited resources and significant water quality needs,” said Steve Owens, director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and chairman of WIFA. “WIFA’s technical assistance program is an essential partner to ADEQ’s public health and environmental protection mission.”

Background

WIFA is an independent state agency that administers the Clean Water Revolving Fund (CWRF) for wastewater and water reclamation construction projects. It also administers the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) for drinking water construction projects.

Both funds get their money from federal and state sources. Interest rates are typically below market rates.

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